

# MANY FACTORS INVOLVED IN ANNEXATION PROBLEM

## City's 'Invitation' To Areas Includes Multiple Services

Some 2,500 residents of two areas adjoining Medford will be asked to vote July 5 on whether or not they wish their areas to become a part of the city of Medford.

There are reasons for annexation, and there are reasons against it. In the hope of clarifying the problems involved, the Mail Tribune here presents a discussion of some of the factors.

If any readers have additional questions, they may be directed to the Mail Tribune, which will make an earnest effort to see that they are answered before the election is held.

If a special election July 5 approves annexation of about 3,000 acres surrounding Medford to the south, residents there will be "accepting the City of Medford's invitation" to participate in a program of better community development, and will receive many additional services at little or no extra cost, according to Medford officials.

A general annexation program was undertaken and recommended by Medford city planners and administrators because widespread improvements of fringe area conditions, and benefits from comprehensive planning, can be realized only when annexation is general.

The area, known as "South Medford," was proposed because city officials believed annexation should be undertaken when outside areas are urbanizing and need city services, but before it is extensively developed.

### Sanitary Conditions

#### Hasten Proposal

One condition which has hastened the annexation program is a serious sanitary condition developing in fringe areas. Because of rapid growth without regard to sanitary facilities, and because of adverse soil and drainage conditions, septic tank effluents spreading over adjacent lands are contaminating ground water supplies.

"The condition is not only a menace to the health of the residents in the areas," Mayor Earl Miller pointed out, "but also endangers citizens of the city. We are fortunate that a serious epidemic has not developed."

Annexation is believed to be the fastest and most economical method of correcting sanitary problems of this particular area.

City's Financial Resources  
If annexation is approved, city forces and financial credit will be available for correcting adverse conditions. Other city services also will be available to residents of the area.

But taxes will be about the same as are now being paid by residents of South Medford.

According to figures compiled by city officials and based on 1954-55 assessed valuations and levies, fire insurance rates will decrease, and water rates will be substantially lower if the area is annexed.

The annual average per capita cost for residents in the Jacksonville Highway Water district for water, rural fire protection and fire insurance presently is \$73.86; in Kings Highway Water district, the cost is \$75.06; in Meyers Lane district, \$67.86; in Charlotte Ann Water district, \$102.06; and for individual water users not in a water district, the cost is \$67.86 annually.

### Other Costs

Taxes paid by residents in the areas include \$7.80 fire district tax, an average of \$16.26 for fire insurance (assuming the residence is within 500 feet of a fire hydrant), and the following water service charges: Jacksonville district, \$49.80; Kings district, \$51; Meyers district, \$43.80; Charlotte Ann, \$54; and for individual users, \$43.80. Charlotte Ann district residents pay an additional \$24 South Bear Creek Sanitary sewer tax annually.

If a residence is not within 500 feet of a fire hydrant, an additional \$2.67 is added to the \$16.26 average fire insurance rate outside the present city limits.

### Cost of Added Services

If annexation is approved, the total cost for present services in those districts and for additional city services would be \$75.77 annually. The additional services include police protection, planning and zoning protection, street lighting, sanitary sewage disposal, storm drainage, and extra fire protection.

The \$75.77 annually includes \$34.20 Medford city tax, \$23.04 for water service, \$12.53 for fire insurance, and \$6 for sanitary sewer service.

City officials anticipate no city tax will be possible in the new area for the year 1955-56, but a city tax would start with fiscal year 1956-57 should the area be annexed.

### Average Assessment

Figures used by city officials were based on an assumed assessed valuation of \$1,500, which was about the average residential assessed valuation in water districts making contracts with the city in the past few years, and an average consumption of water of 8,000 gallons

per month. Insurance rates were based on an assumed \$8,000 three-year residential policy.

School district taxes are not included in estimates because school district boundaries will not change should annexation be approved.

Besides automatically receiving established city services, residents in the area, if annexed, would be able to petition the city council for installation of sanitary sewer trunk lines, which would be constructed on a district basis, with construction costs assessed on property benefited in the entire district.

City Manager Robert Duff said present city trunk lines would serve sewage purposes for several years with additional lateral lines installed in annexed areas. The first trunk line probably would be installed in the southeast area, Duff said, because the need in that area is urgent. Other trunk lines would be installed as soon as possible.

Water main installations and street improvements in the area would be done when petitions signed by property owners desiring the improvements are submitted to the city council.

In installing water mains, the city pays the difference between a six-inch cast iron main and the extra sized trunk water main judged necessary to deliver an adequate supply of water for fire protection and other necessary uses.

The water commission, within the city limits, furnishes and installs fire hydrants of correct size and spacing to comply with the Oregon Fire Insurance Rating bureau's requirements.

Should annexation be approved, zoning regulations would be established to protect and safeguard agricultural uses of land until such time that the land became available for subdivision purposes.

Earlier, this year, the planning commission recommended that zoning ordinances be changed to create an agricultural zone.

When the planning commission and city council studied the proposed annexation, it was believed that consideration should be given to long term hazards of poorly planned and developed fringe areas, and that annexation should be balanced among residential, commercial and industrial uses.

Mayor Miller, in reviewing the annexation program, pointed out that with present and additional city services in South Medford, "it is cheaper to live in the city and receive all of the services available."

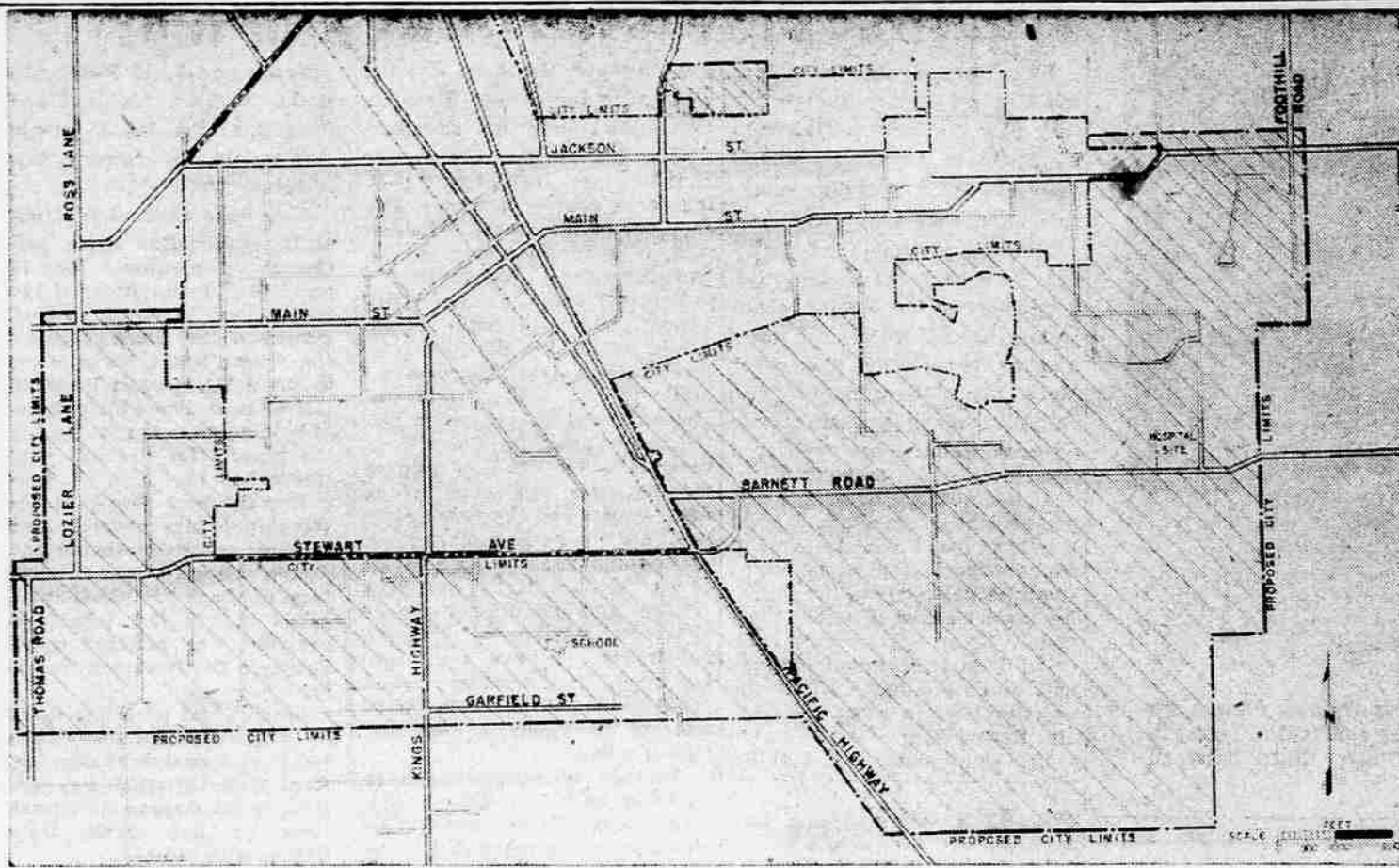
## Weed Beetle Colony Reported by Agent

Persons needing goatweed beetles to clean up the weed on their property will find a concentration on Laurelhurst rd. where the insects may be caught, according to Earle Jossy, assistant county agricultural agent.

A quarter of a teacup of beetles is needed to start a colony, Jossy reported. They should be put out wherever goatweed is thick.

The county agent stated that the beetles have so completely cleaned up the goatweed in the county, using up their source of food, that they are now hard to find.

The beetles were introduced to the county by L. G. Gentner, entomologist with the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment station.



**PROPOSED BOUNDARIES**—Boundaries of proposed annexations of Laurelhurst addition and South Medford areas are shown in the cross-hatched areas in the above map. The area with the present city limits is unshaded. South Medford includes the area briefly described as follows: From the east city limits, 200 feet north of Hillcrest rd., east to a point 200 feet east of Foothill rd.; south (with two zig-zags as indicated toward the right of the above map) to a point east of South Pacific highway; west across Southern Pacific railroad tracks; northwest to opposite Charlotte Ann st.; westward 200 feet south of Garfield st. and to a point 200 feet west of Thomas

rd.; north to a point 200 feet north of Stewart ave.; eastward to a point 200 feet west of Lozier lane; north to a point 200 feet north of West Main st.; and east to present city limits, shown toward left of map. The Laurelhurst annexation area includes that portion of the addition not now within the city. The boundary extends from the present city limits on Crater Lake ave., north to a point 150 feet north of Stevens st., and east to Wabash st. Residents who are not sure if they live within the proposed boundaries may check their residence location at the city hall.

## Precincts, Voting Places for July 5 Election Described

South Medford will be divided into three precincts for an annexation election July 5.

Laurelhurst addition will be a separate precinct, and residents in that area will vote at the residence of Ray T. Osborne, 1001 Stevens st.

The South Medford first precinct will include all the area east of Bear Creek, and residents will vote at the home of Mrs. Blanche Powell, 1920 Barnett rd.

Qualified voters in the second precinct, which includes that area between Bear Creek and South Peach st., will vote at the Southern Oregon Heating and Air Conditioning company, 2356 Highway 99.

The third precinct is that area west of South Peach st., and registered voters will vote at the home of W. G. Warner Jr., 1798 Stewart ave.

Those qualified to vote must be registered voters living within the proposed area.

(Medford residents will vote in a special election, on financial questions, the same day, but the city election has no connection with the proposed annexation of Laurelhurst addition and South Medford.)

## Water District Indebtedness Would Still be Obligation Of Annexed Area Residents

Residents of organized water districts, if annexation of South Medford is approved, still will be responsible for obligations contracted by the district.

Under present laws, the area annexed is withdrawn from the water district, but that portion is not relieved of liabilities and indebtedness previously contracted by the district.

The annexed portion may continue to be subject to taxation by the district for payment of its indebtedness at the time of annexation. Thus the annexed area would be taxed by the district at millage rates set by the district without regard to assessed valuation in the annexed area, which may increase at a much greater rate than the balance of the district.

As an alternative, if the city chooses, the city may assume the obligations of the annexed area for previous indebtedness. In this case the city will be liable to the district for the amount of taxes which otherwise would be extended each year against the annexed area.

The city will succeed to ownership of all water mains, meters, services and fire hydrants in the annexed area, except operations of the remainder of those facilities necessary for the operation of the district, such as trunk mains.

The case involves a Grants Pass creamery check for \$44.08 and dates from Jan. 10, according to district court records. Bail was set at \$1,500 and a jail commitment was issued.

Aaron Francis Gentry, 24, of 57 Vista st., Ashland, was fined \$10 and \$5 court costs in district court yesterday on a petty larceny charge. He was also given a 20-day suspended jail sentence.

Court records showed that the case concerned theft of a small hotel alarm clock from the Columbia hotel, Ashland, on June 5. Gentry also ordered to pay the hotel keeper the remainder of his bill, according to the court report.

For A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon  
IT'S **DARDANELLE**  
For Really FINE FOOD  
✓ Children Always Welcome  
✓ Very Pleasant Atmosphere  
Open at 1 p.m. Sunday and Monday (Memorial Day)  
CLOSED WEDNESDAY—PHONE 5-9230 GOLD HILL

## Service Expansion Seen in Annexation Area if Plan Passes

Improvements in South Medford and extending of city services to that area will be done as soon as possible after annexation, if the proposal is approved by area residents in a July 5 election.

However, Mayor Earl Miller pointed out that "residents of the area should not expect extensive improvements immediately, as it will require some time to accomplish the many things necessary to provide adequate service to the area."

City officials have estimated general expenses to the city in South Medford will total about \$62,326 annually, and an estimated \$11,560 over a two or three year period for capital improvements by the water department.

But levying of taxes in the proposed annexation area is not anticipated in fiscal year 1955-56.

The eventual cost of improvements in South Medford would depend on the area's growth and the demand for city services.

Some provisions have been made in the city's general fund budget for additional police and engineering work in anticipation of annexation.

The area now includes 715 homes, 42 commercial businesses, and nine industries in addition to agricultural tracts, a golf course, a garbage dump and hog feeding facility, two cemeteries, including a mausoleum and crematory, and three sawmills.

**Construction Proposed**  
Proposed construction in South Medford includes a large general hospital, development of two shopping centers, and several residential subdivisions. Under construction is a grade school.

Agricultural tracts include orchards, dairy pasture lands, and several small acreages for horses and cows which, in most instances, are for pleasure or to supplement the income of the owners.

Several cases of pets being tied in the sun have been reported to the Southern Oregon Humane society, Mrs. Sidney W. Richardson, manager of the society, said today.

Mrs. Richardson pointed out that state laws provide protection for pets and require that animals be protected from the elements, provided with fresh water and sufficient exercise. Medford Police Chief Charles Champlin said the police department would cooperate with the humane society in settling cruelty cases reported to the society.

**SWIM**  
Twin Plunges  
Open Daily  
10:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.  
Ashland, Oregon

## School Emergency Funds Allocated by Rural School Board

Jackson county rural school board Friday gave final approval to an emergency fund request of six districts totalling \$15,003.65.

The amount brought to \$37,727.33 the emergency sums granted for the year. Districts had requested \$54,080.67. County School Superintendent A. B. Mekvold reported. A previous grant of \$22,723.68 had been allowed to 11 districts.

Largest single grant Friday was \$4,182.16 to Eagle Point for an extra teacher and additional commercial room equipment to take care of increased enrollment. Phoenix, faced with inadequate water supply at the high school, received \$3,400. The district is negotiating with Charlotte Ann water district to secure Medford water.

### Other Purposes

Building and bus repair were among reasons for other funds approved.

Mekvold said that the total amount budgeted this year in the emergency fund was only \$36,000 but that the board was able to allow \$37,727.33 because of the balance in the fund carried over from the previous year.

The overall amount included \$5,000 for the retarded children's classes at Phoenix. A reimbursement will be received from the state.

## Thieves Steal PreFab House in Portland

Portland—(U.P.)—Thieves stole a house in Portland yesterday. Willis M. Sexton of University Homes told police that 38-sections of a pre-fab house were carted off the building site. Each section weighed 275 pounds.

for and minor arterial street lights. The cost would partially be offset by revenue from Copco franchise.

An estimated \$1,500 will be required for installation of street signs annually. Each of 600 street name signs will cost about \$25 for installation.

Additional police work in the area, if it is annexed, would cost about \$21,675 annually, for an additional clerk and another patrol beat, to provide good service in the area and maintain the present standard of service within the present city limits.

### All in Fire Area

The proposed area is all within the Medford Rural Fire Protection district and is served by the Medford department. An additional fire station in South Medford would be necessary only if a considerable high value district develops otherwise, the area would be served by present facilities.

The total initial capital expenditure by the water department in the proposed annexation area is estimated to be \$11,560 over a two to three year period. Of the amount, \$97,500 would be for installation of new mains and fire hydrants to provide water service to new customers as soon as possible.

The remainder of the amount, \$14,060, is for payment of mains and fire hydrants in water districts, which would be paid off by the water department.

Revenue in the water department would decrease if the area is annexed. The average water revenue per customer in the area outside the city is \$3.22, while the average revenue per customer inside the city is \$1.90.



DR. G. A. DIERDORFF  
New Osteopathic President

## Dr. G. A. Dierdorff To Be Installed Association Head

Portland—Dr. Gerald A. Dierdorff, Medford osteopathic physician and surgeon, will be installed as president of the Oregon Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, which is holding its convention at the Multnomah hotel Monday through Thursday, June 13-16.

The four-day conference is a joint gathering with the Washington Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.

The 37-year-old doctor, who was elected president-elect during last year's convention, will succeed Dr. Elmer A. Flaming, Dallas, Ore.

Dr. Dierdorff has been practicing in Medford since 1945, and is a member of the staff at Osteopathic hospital and clinic. He received his D. O. degree from Des Moines (Ia.) Still College of Osteopathy in 1943. Following internship in Detroit Osteopathic hospital, Dr. Dierdorff took his post-graduate work in surgery at Los Angeles. He has been active in the Methodist church in the Gideons and in fraternal and civic activities.

## Cherry Fruit Fly Spray Is Advised

Don Berry, Jackson county horticultural agent, today advised cherry growers to apply a spray for the control of cherry fruit fly as soon as possible. This is the pest which causes the worms in cherries at harvest time.

The first adult flies of the season were found June 9, which allows about a week before the first eggs will be laid. Deposited under the skin of the cherries, these eggs hatch maggots which cannot be controlled.

According to Berry, spraying now with 3 pounds of methoxychlor per 100 gallons or 1 heaping tablespoon in 2 gallons of water will give satisfactory control. If aphids are present on the trees, 2 pounds of Malathion per 100 gallons should be added for their control.

All cherry trees, including seedlings, should be sprayed, with seedlings, should be sprayed with weeks later.

## Oregon Wheat Crop Set At 19,628,000 Bushels

Washington—(U.P.)—The Agriculture Department's June 1 forecast for Oregon's 1955 winter wheat crop remained at 19,628,000 bushels Saturday—same as the May forecast.

Last year's crop totaled 21,033,000 bushels.

Hungry for Some GOOD CHOW Lately?  
Know Where to Get It?

**The VETS CLUB**  
NO LESS!

★ Guess What We're Going to Serve "The Public" (That's If You Are Willing)

... featuring: Salads, Luncheon Entrees, Sandwiches  
... Specializing: Steaks, Chicken, Assorted Sea Foods  
• OPENING UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT •  
**MONDAY, JUNE 13th, 11 A.M.**  
—Della and Marty